



1943 - 2003
SIXTY12
 YEARS National Security Complex

Aerial views of the Y-12 Plant highlight the changes to Y-12 over its 60-year history. Also shown are an external view of the "pilot plant," known as Building 9731, and a Beta-track calutron located within Building 9204-3. These buildings are eligible for National Historic Landmark status. Led by General Leslie R. Groves, the construction of the Y-12 Plant was a key element in the success of the Manhattan Project during World War II. The Alpha and Beta Racetracks supplied the enriched uranium necessary for the atomic weaponry that helped end the war. Following World War II, the plant continued to be a center of nuclear weapons and materials research and design. Significant contributions in these years include the production of lithium and genetic research on the effects of radiation. Much of the existing physical plant and appearance of Y-12 reflects the legacy of the World War II and Cold War eras.

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